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Former Hartnell student who killed brother scheduled for sentencing today

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Langston Williams III's father says he's pleased that a Monterey County judge showed his son leniency during his sentencing this morning.

Williams III was sentenced to one year in county jail and four years of felony probation for fatally stabbing his brother more than two years ago. The killing happened during what authorities described as a fight over a laptop computer in their Salinas apartment.

"I'm grateful for everything," said Langston Williams Jr., the defendant's father. "We had the best representation you could possibly have in this situation."

Williams III's lawyers in the case are Salinas attorneys Scott Erdbacher and Thomas Worthington.

Williams III declined to speak to reporters this morning.

Worthington said they plan to seek home confinement for Williams III in lieu of the jail time.

Steven Somers, a county deputy district attorney, opposed home detention in court, saying that it was unsuitable for violent criminal cases.

"Typically, home detention doesn't apply to violent (crimes)," Somers told the court. "I don't think home detention is suitable. This was a violent act - the most violent of acts."

Worthington said after the hearing that he is confident that the application for home detention will be approved due to the extraordinary circumstances of the case. He said a family friend has agreed to open their home to Williams III if home confinement is approved. It would take at least two weeks before that decision is made, Worthington said.

Williams III initially was charged with murder in the death of his 18-year-old brother, Thaddeus Williams. During the struggle over the laptop, authorities have said, Williams III held a steak

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knife. It is still unclear exactly how the steak knife ended up piercing Thaddeus' heart. Williams III had told investigators he never intended to stab his brother.

Since the fatal stabbing, Williams III has been living in San Antonio, Texas, with his family between court proceedings. His family managed to post Williams III's bail soon after the case began in 2007.

During the hearing, Worthington told the judge that he appreciates everyone's patience and fairness in the long, drawn-out case.

"I don't remember in my 40 years of experience ... a more tragic case than this one," Worthington said. "Langston Williams has just been through the worst possible hell that anybody could go through. He has been in prison for two years living with what he did."

Williams III is scheduled to surrender to county jail on May 19.

Williams III, a former student at Hartnell College in Salinas, pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter seven months ago in the death of his younger brother Thaddeus Williams on Oct. 24, 2007.